

a⁴ 6. (amended) A drug delivery composition according to Claim 1 wherein the microspheres have been [stabilised by heat treatment] heated to stabilize the microspheres.

a⁵ 8. (amended) A drug delivery composition according to Claim 7 wherein the absorption enhancer is a surfactant [a lysophosphatidylcholine or a lysophosphatidylglycerol].

✓
Please add the following new claims.

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a⁶ ~~13~~
15. (new claim) The drug delivery composition of claim 1 wherein the microspheres comprise a material or ester thereof selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polylactide-co-glycolide, hyaluronic acid, gellan gum and pectin.

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16. (new claim) The drug delivery composition of claim 1 wherein the microspheres comprise a material selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl starch, hydroxypropyl starch, carboxymethyl starch, cationic starch, acetylated starch, phosphorylated starch and grafted starch.

Remarks

A Terminal Disclaimer to the previously issued patent, U.S. Patent No. 5,204,108, is enclosed. Claim 1 has been amended to define the material forming the microspheres as comprising the materials described in the application at page 5, line 1, to page 6, line 5,


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Preliminary Amendment

(where the terms starch and dextran include the derivatives recited in dependent claims 3, 4, and 16 and described at page 5, lines 15-30). Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the drug is either a protein or peptide or one of the recited classes of drugs described at page 14, lines 9-30, which excludes sodium chromoglycate. No new matter has been added.

Allowance of claims 1-12, 15 and 16, as amended, is earnestly solicited. A copy of all claims as pending upon entry of this amendment is attached to facilitate review by the examiner.

Please credit any overpayment or charge any other fees due in connection with this matter to our deposit account No. 01-2507. A duplicate of this transmittal is enclosed to facilitate this process.

Respectfully submitted,


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